

22 October 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT : Establishment of the President's Scientific Research Board

1. Attention is called to Executive Order No. 9791, dated 17 October 1946, providing for a study of Scientific Research and Development Activities and establishing the President's Scientific Research Board.

2. The Director of War Mobilization and Reconversion, Dr. John R. Steelman, is announced as Director.

3. The Director shall review the current and proposed scientific research and development activities conducted or financed by all departments and independent establishments of the Government to ascertain the fields and objectives of such research and development, personnel requirements, costs, and inter-relationship with non-Federal scientific activities.

4. The Director shall prepare appropriate reports for the President setting forth his findings on the above, and all Governmental departments and establishments are directed to furnish such information and assistance as requested, withholding no scientific information except on specific order of the President.

5. To assist the Director, an Interdepartmental Board is established, to be known as the President's Scientific Research Board, which shall consist of the Director, as Chairman, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of the Navy, the Secretary of War, the Federal Loan Administrator, the Federal Security Administrator, the Federal Works Administrator, the Director of the Office of Scientific Research and Development, the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, the Chairman of the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the Chairman of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics. Each member of the Board may designate a full time member of his staff as an alternate. The Director may designate heads of other independent establishments engaged in Federal research or development work as members of the Board. The functions of the Board shall be to assist the Director in making the necessary studies and to advise and consult with him in the preparation of the required reports.

6. Query whether CIG desires representation on this Board, in order that any reports submitted to the President by the Director of Scientific Research Board shall contain a section indicating intelligence information as to the extent of foreign scientific research and development in particular fields covered by the reports.

This would be of importance where such foreign scientific research and development was in advance of that of the United States in a given field. Examples of this would be intelligence secured from the captured German Air Technical documents now at Wright Field, which show German research and development to be well ahead of American development in certain fields, material available from the Washington Document Center, and intelligence being secured on foreign research and development activities through current collection activities.

7. Attention is also invited to the over-all security problems involved in the above.

WALTER L. PFORZHEIMER
Chief, Legislative Liaison Branch

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Ref. par. 6 - In view of his membership on Policy Council of Joint Research and Development Board the Director feels it unnecessary to be represented on this Board.

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